

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Central Rescue Team****Project Title:**

Central Rescue Team - Feasibility Study for a Fire Station

State Funding Requested: \$ 20,000**House District: 6 - C**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The Central Rescue Team is requesting funds to conduct a feasibility study and produce a preliminary design for a fire station and a fire engine.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$20,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Central is without local fire protection at this time, leaving them vulnerable to house and wildfires. The creation of a volunteer fire department, construction of a fire house, and purchase of a fire engine is important for Central's safety. This funding request is only for a feasibility study and design of a fire station.

Project Timeline:

The feasibility study will began as soon as funds are available.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Central Rescue Team

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Judith Schenk

Phone Number: (907) 520-5667

Address: PO Box 30024 Central, AK 99730

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Central - 6

Central Rescue Team

PO Box 30024
Central, AK 99730-0024
907-520-5667

January 14, 2008

To: Dorothy Shockley
Office of Senator Albert Kookesh
Fax: 907-465-2827

From: Judy Schenk
Central Rescue Team
Phone: 907-520-5667
Fax: 907-520-5900

Re: 2008 Capital Improvement Project for Central, Alaska

Pages including this: 20

Dorothy,

Attached is the request for capital funds from Central, Alaska.

Per our discussion, please transmit a copy of this to Representative Woodie Salmon.

Dorothy, we appreciate all of your good work in our behalf. You've been a real gem!

Thanks again.
Judy Schenk

Central Rescue Team

PO Box 30024

Central, AK 99730-0024

907-520-5667

January 11, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Woodie Salmon
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Capital Improvement Project for Central, AK

Dear Sirs:

Please submit for funding consideration, the attached capital project for Central, Alaska:

Capital Improvement Projects for Central, Alaska \$85,000

including several separate parts:

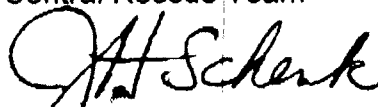
An Ice Skating Rink	\$39,300
Feasibility Study for a Fire Station	20,000
Central Cemetery and Cemetery Road Improvements	10,000
Landfill Access Improvements	4,500
3 Energy-Saving Streetlights	8,500
Museum Lawn & Flower Upgrade	700
Energy Cost Assistance for the Museum	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$85,000

Attached are a description of Central, Alaska, details of each subproject, and letters of support.

This project is important to Central—both for the significant additions and for its economic impact. In the Community Profile attached, I discuss Central's recent economic decline. In addition to the intrinsic value of this project, please consider its economic benefit to Central, Alaska in your evaluation of it. Local resources will be used wherever possible to increase its impact throughout the community.

Thank you for your efforts to fund this project.

Sincerely,
Central Rescue Team



Judith H. Schenk

**Central, Alaska
Capital Improvement Project Funding Request
Community Profile**

Central, Alaska is a small unincorporated village located 128 miles northeast of Fairbanks on the Steese Highway. Per Alaska Department of Labor Population Estimates, the 2007 population of Central is 89 people. In addition to local residents, many Fairbanksans have recreational cabins in Central.

Central's school, the Far North School, offers kindergarten through 12th grade education as part of the Yukon Flats School District. Currently there are 11 students enrolled. The Alaska Department of Transportation has a facility in Central which maintains State roads from Eagle Summit to Circle City.

In addition to small businesses operating year-round in Central, there are several mining operations going during the summer. Also during the summer, tourism and weekend residents increase the economic activity. For summer recreation, Central offers 4-wheeler trails and water fun on Birch Creek (half way to Circle City) and the Yukon River (in Circle City).

Central does winter well and usually has a somewhat better snow conditions than Fairbanks for slightly longer in the spring. Local snow machining is a popular winter sport, as there are very few fences in the Central area. The Yukon Quest travels through Central in February with a rest stop at the Steese Roadhouse. Central volunteers are responsible for creating and marking the Yukon Quest Trail from 94 Mile on the Steese Highway to Beiderman's Cabin, 80 Miles up the Yukon River.

Economic Outlook

Central is in a period of economic decline. Mining is on the decline, due to increasing operating costs and greater costs of regulation and reclamation. Bobby Miller's Arctic Circle Hot Springs, formerly a significant employer and tourist attraction, has closed, with a resulting downturn in both local employment and tourism.

The decrease in tourism has had negative impact on other Central business, as well. The Central Motor Inn has closed. With increasing fuel costs and fewer people traveling the Steese Highway, the CDHS Museum and the Steese Roadhouse (the sole remaining source of tourist services as well as services to local residents) have lost business. Consequently, there are few sources of employment in Central.

We are, in general, a bunch of retirees, small business owners, and individuals who live a subsistence lifestyle and look for part-time employment to make ends meet. Price increases for fuel, electricity, and even food make this even harder to do. We have seen a resultant decrease in population since the Hot Springs closed as individuals moved elsewhere.

Funding of Capital Improvement Projects will, to the greatest extent possible, use local resources and will, consequently, be a shot in the arm to Central's economy. In addition to their individual merits, these proposed capital projects should also be evaluated for their benefits to a town needing an economic boost. We hope that ultimately the Hot Springs will reopen under a new owner and economic activity will pick back up. Public projects, such as those proposed, are important to the economic health of the community until that time.

Small Business Details

Numerous small businesses operate year-round in Central:

- The Steese Roadhouse (Paul & Beth Miller) is the only operating bar/restaurant/grocery store/liquor store/laundry/service station facility in Central, and also acts as the local informal gathering place.
- Fuel delivery for Central and Circle, Alaska is done by Steese Highway Fuel (Paul & Beth Miller).
- Central Electric, Inc. (Paul & Beth Miller) provides electric power for Central and the Circle Hot Springs area.
- F&J Construction (Fred & Judy Schenk) is a local lumber mill, putting trees killed in the 2004 fire to use in the community.
- Circle Air (Ronnie Drouin) offers guided sightseeing and hunting trips throughout eastern Alaska.
- Willis Mine Services (Dean Willis) offers mining services as well as actively mining in the Central Area.
- Greenhorn Mining (Stan Gelvin) is involved mostly in equipment and dirt moving activities these days.
- The US Post Office in Central (Becky Hendrickson, Postmaster) is a full-service post office with post office boxes and a lobby open 24 hours a day. There is no roadside mail delivery in Central.
- United Utilities offers telephone service and maintains one technician in Central (Dawn Foster).
- Symons Specialties (Rick Symons) is a can-fix-just-about-anything repair business.
- Schenk Bookkeeping (Judy Schenk) offers bookkeeping services.
- Central Alaska Transfer (Eddie O'Leary) has an equipment- and dirt-moving business and a couple of rental cabins.
- Mac-Lin & Company (Mac and Linda Carter) have a greenhouse selling seedlings and vegetables.

Several nonprofit organizations call Central home:

- The Circle District Historical Society (CDHS) owns, maintains, and operates the CDHS Museum in Central. The Museum is open to visitors during the summer and during the year provides a meeting place for such activities as ladies' crafting, the Xmas bazaar, First Aid Training, and an annual Health Fair.
- The Circle Mining District is a recognized entity for solving mining disputes and sponsors the Miners' Pig Roast every year in August.
- The Central Rescue Team is an Emergency Technician rescue squad with 13 members.

Central Rescue Team
Central, Alaska 99730

2008 Proposed Capital Improvement Projects

Project Title: Fire Station Feasibility & Design

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Project Summary: The Central Rescue Team is requesting funds to conduct a feasibility study and produce a preliminary design for a fire station and fire engine for Central, Alaska.

Justification and Level of Need:

Level of Need: High

Central, Alaska is without local fire protection at this time, leaving us vulnerable to house and wild fires. The creation of a volunteer fire department, construction of a fire house, and purchase of a fire engine is important for Central's safety. Therefore, we are requesting funds to hire a part-time project manager to move this project forward, including investigating potential sources of funding of construction and on-going operation, locations of appropriate land, and design of a possible fire station.

Letters of Support: See attached.

Matching Funds, In-Kind Donations: No additional funds are available.

Additional State Support: Future funding will be necessary to erect a fire house and buy a fire engine. This funding request is only for a feasibility study and design of a fire station. This feasibility study, if funded, will produce a future request for funds specifically designating funds needed for the actual construction of a fire station and purchase of a fire engine.

Has Project Been Requested Before? Funding for this project has not been requested previously.

Other Sources of Funding Sought and/or Secured: No additional funds are available.

Detailed Outline and Timeline: Activities to be conducted under this project include:

- Determine potential sources of funding for capital project and ongoing operations
- Investigate possible capital costs and ongoing operating costs
- Determine squad composition, training requirements, and operational commitments necessary.
- Evaluate feasibility of funding and staffing of fire squad
- Investigate possible sites for fire station
- If relevant, investigate possibility of heating fire station with residual heat of power generation facility
- Conduct preliminary soils study to determine necessary foundation requirements
- Develop, with architect/engineer, preliminary plans for fire station in order to make detailed cost estimate for future funding request.
- Investigate possible fire truck costs for future funding request.

Timing of many of these activities can be conducted as soon as funding is available. The soils study will need to be conducted after the ground has thawed, which is during July through September. We will move quickly with this project to be able to submit a second funding request for the actual capital construction and acquisition costs.

Contact Person: Judith Schenk
Central Rescue Team
PO Box 30024
Central, AK 99730-0024
907-520-5667

Central Electric Inc.

PO Box 30024
Central, AK 99730-0024
EIN 27-0081444
907-520-5900, Fax 907-520-5901

January 11, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Woodie Salmon
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Capital Improvement Project for Central, AK

Dear Sirs:

Central Electric supports the creation of an **ice skating rink** in Central for students and general community activity. This is a much needed winter recreational facility for Central, where there are no others. This will be a big addition to the community's long winter in Central.

I am also writing in favor of a **fire station** in Central. I am very concerned about the risk of fire in the Central Electric power plant. I have taken all the steps possible to protect it that I can, given the limited financial means of our small regulated company. Local fire suppression assistance would be invaluable if, God forbid, there was such an accident at the power plant.

Central has several other fire risks, as well. The number of people in Central burning wood – with the higher risk of home fires – should justify a fire station. I will also be thankful for some local fire protection against wild fires.

Street lights will be great for our community. Three energy-saving lights will be timed to be on only during periods of activity, and will turn themselves off in the dead of night. I have taken care to specify lights which can relight even in severe cold.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,
Central Electric, Inc.


Paul Miller
President

Central Electric Inc.

Central, AK 99730-0024
EIN 27-0081444

Central Electric Inc.

PO Box 30024
Central, AK 99730-0024
EIN 27-0081444
907-520-5900, Fax 907-520-5901

January 11, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Woodie Salmon
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,
Central Electric, Inc.


Paul Miller
President

Circle Mining District
PO Box 30181
Central, AK 99730-0181
907-520-5419

January 10, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Woodie Salmon
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Support for Capital Improvement Projects for Central, Alaska

Dear Sirs:

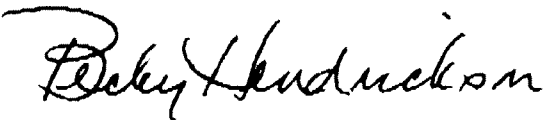
The Circle Mining District whole-heartedly supports the Central Rescue Team in its efforts to add to Central in the following ways:

- An ice skating rink
- The feasibility study of a fire station in Central
- Streetlights on 3 important corners
- Improvements to the Cemetery and the Cemetery Road
- Landfill access improvements

Each of these is an important project and will be a significant addition to the Community.

Thank you for your support in obtaining funding for Central, Alaska.

Sincerely,
Circle Mining District



Becky Hendrickson
President

Steese Roadhouse

PO Box 30024
Central, AK 99730-0024
EIN 20-0826579
907-520-5800, Fax 907-520-5901

January 11, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Woodie Salmon
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sirs:

Please provide funding for Central, Alaska's Capital Improvement Plan. In particular, I would like support for the street lights, the fire station, landfill access, and the ice skating rink.

Street lights are important for traffic safety. One will be placed at the intersection of the Steese Highway and the Circle Hot Springs Road, and a second at the driveway of the Far North School. Safety is a big concern for each of these areas.

As a business owner in Central, I want a **fire station**. My business supplies the only restaurant, bar, grocery, laundry, and service station services to Central. Fire damage to this business would be devastating to the town of Central. Local fire fighting capabilities are crucial to the long-going interests of the entire community.

Improved Landfill access will make our trips to the landfill with a trailer easier. The turnaround is currently too small and requires some complicated backing with a trailer. Your help in this is appreciated.

As a parent, I am interested in having an **ice skating rink** in Central. There is nothing for teenage kids to do in this town in the winter. Please give them something to do. I may even try my hand at skating. Who knows!

Sincerely yours,

Beth Miller

Beth Miller
Steese Roadhouse

F&J Construction

PO Box 30101
Central, AK 99730-0101
907-520-5667

January 11, 2008

Senator Albert Kookesh
Representative Woodie Salmon
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Capital Improvement Project for Central, AK

Dear Sirs:

I want to lend my support to the development of the ice skating rink in Central. As an avid hockey fan and a former player, I'm interested to get back on the ice and give it another try. At 63 years old, I could certainly use the exercise. I was involved in the design of this proposed rink, and I feel sure that we will have a facility which will be used by many in Central. Parents and other interested parties will be able to watch from the warming shelter. Hockey scrimmage, anyone?

The fire station will be a benefit to all property owners in Central. Better landfill access is, too. Keep those good ideas coming.

Finally, the Museum is a wonderful preservation of the Circle Mining District heritage and a good community meeting place. As a volunteer, Paul Chizmar has done a great job on the grounds and flowers of the Museum as a volunteer. Additional money for grass and flower seeds, fertilizer, and potting soil is small but meaningful contribution to his work.

The Museum will appreciate money to offset the Museum's fuel costs next year. With increased fuel costs, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Museum to balance its budget.

Thanks for your support of Central, AK.

Sincerely,



Fred Schenk
F&J Construction